

SPAWN

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#### PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Spawn (Jim Downing) and Richard continue their interrogation of The Agent, revealing new truths about the man Jim was before his coma – the mysterious Director Kramer.

Even as Jim is finally discovering the reality of his past life, Richard begins to note that the dark powers Jim wields as SPAWN seem to be increasing in their influence.

In a unique turn, Richard's true allegiance is revealed, as Jason Wynn prepares to make his final move.



**Jim Downing (Spawn)** – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the SPAWN mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn... and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



**Director Kramer** – Before Jim Downing woke from his coma in SPAWN #185 he lead a completely different life – was a completely different man, with a different name, different physical appearance and quite possibly sinister motivations driven by unchecked ambition. Director Kramer ran the clandestine government program, RAGNOROK and, unknowingly had a hand in crafting some of the darker aspects of the SPAWN universe.



**The Program** – A clandestine military operation with deep-rooted ties to events from throughout SPAWN's 20-year existence. Hidden within the secrets of The Program, also known as Project: RAGNOROK, lies the truth Jim seeks, and the dark heart of a past better left buried.



**Richard Masullo (Tremor)** – Transformed into the hulking monster known as Tremor by the same clandestine government program that Jim Downing once oversaw, Richard is a man on a mission, crossing the country to confront Jim about their shared past – but is he friend or foe?



**Jason Wynn** – At one time considered to be among the most powerful men on the planet, Jason Wynn ran a number of covert government programs with far-reaching influence, before his shocking and sudden fall from grace. Wynn's connection to the events surrounding Jim Downing's "rebirth" further cement his role as a master manipulator.

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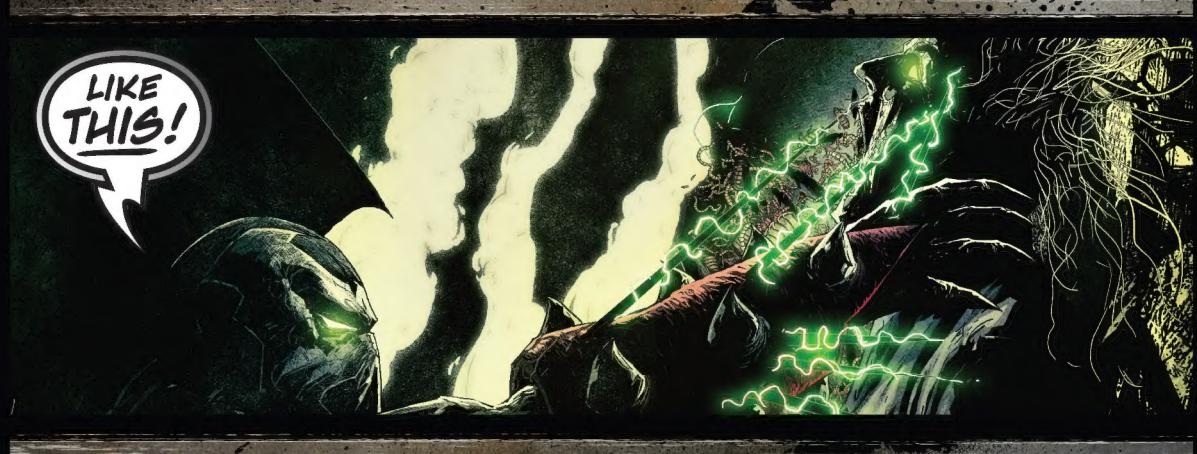
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# THE PROLOGUE:

17 DAYS EARLIER.





\* See issues 218 and 219  
for the full story—TODD.

LET 'EM  
ALL COME!!  
BECAUSE NO ONE  
IS GOING TO STOP  
THIS SPAWN EVER  
AGAIN!\*



Minutes later.

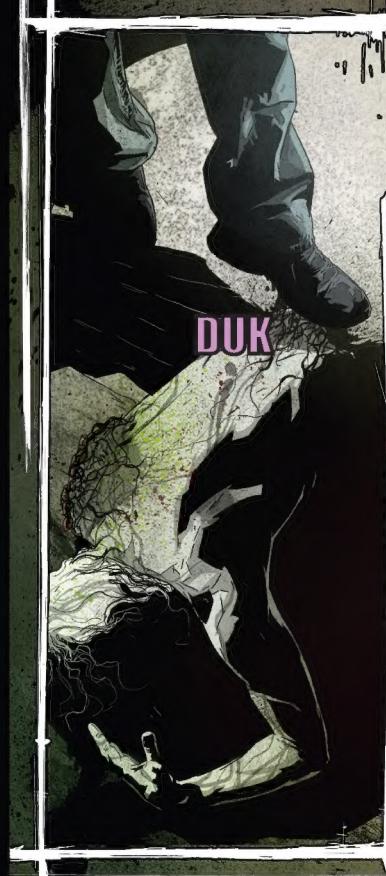


SORRY  
I HAD TO  
BAIL ON YOU,  
DOWNING. I  
NEEDED TO GET  
SOMETHING  
IMPORTANT.



SOME-  
THING  
MALEBOLGIA  
NEEDS  
BADLY.





AND TO  
THINK THE YEARS I  
WASTED-- BECAUSE  
I WAS AFRAID  
OF YOU.

PATHETIC.

ABSOLUTELY  
PATHETIC!

CLOWN...

IT'S BEEN  
A LONG TIME,  
HASN'T IT?

COG?!

NO WAY!  
YOU'RE NOT REAL...  
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE  
INVOLVED IN ALL THIS, TOO!  
SOMEONE'S JUST MESSING  
WITH ME NOW.

SORRY TO  
DISAPPOINT  
YOU-- BUT  
IT'S ME.

AND I'VE  
SEEN YOU'VE  
INTRODUCED YOURSELF  
TO THIS LATEST SPAWN.  
HOPING HE'D-- WHAT?  
OR THAT HE'D JOIN  
FORCES WITH YOU  
EVENTUALLY?

THAT'S NOT  
GOING TO  
HAPPEN!

BECAUSE  
HE'S NOT  
YOURS TO  
CONTROL!

NOT A  
WEAPON THAT  
POWERFUL.

SCREW  
YOU, COG! I'VE  
WAITED TOO  
LONG FOR  
THIS!

SO  
HAVE  
I!!

IF YOU THINK  
THINGS JUST GOT EASIER  
FOR YOU BECAUSE  
MALEBOLGIA'S DISAPPEARED  
-- **THINK TWICE!** AND STOP  
DELUDING YOURSELF INTO  
THINKING YOU'LL EVER BE  
ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE  
SECOND RATE SERVANT  
YOU ALREADY ARE!

SO HERE'S  
A FRIENDLY  
WARNING...

STARTING  
NOW-- YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO CONTACT  
DOWNING AGAIN. IS  
THAT CLEAR?

GET YOUR  
HANDS OFF  
ME, OLD  
MAN!

SEE-- I'VE  
GOT NEWS FOR  
YOU. I DON'T KNOW  
WHERE YOU'VE BEEN  
HIDING-- BUT YOU'VE  
BEEN GONE TOO  
LONG... BECAUSE  
THINGS HAVE  
CHANGED!

SO  
HAVE I,  
CLOWN... SO  
HAVE I.

# Chapter One: The REMAINS

SUPPOSEDLY...  
THIS IS WHERE IT  
STARTED. AT LEAST  
THAT'S WHAT I WAS  
TOLD BY THOSE I WAS  
'QUESTIONING', AND  
THEY WEREN'T IN ANY  
POSITION TO BE LYING  
TO ME.

WHAT ARE  
YOU SAYING--  
THAT THIS IS 'THE  
PROJECT'?

I'M NOT.  
NO.

THIS WAS JUST  
THE PETRI DISH WHERE  
THINGS GREW OUT OF. A  
HUGE LAB BUILT ON TOP OF AN  
OLD MILITARY INSTALLATION  
WHERE THEY COULD MONITOR  
THE RESULTS OF SOME OF THEIR  
'TESTS' BY SEEING HOW THE  
PATIENTS WOULD LIVE AND  
REACT IN A NORMAL  
ENVIRONMENT.

ARE YOU  
RELIGIOUS,  
RICHARD?

THIS WAS JUST  
AN EXTENSION OF THEIR  
SICK WARFARE RESEARCH  
THAT EVENTUALLY GAVE  
SOMEONE THE IDEA THAT  
HUMANS COULD NOT  
ONLY BE CULTIVATED  
AND PERFECTED...

BUT  
BUILT.



HUGE,  
GLOWING BLUE  
WINGS! AND THE  
POWER IT GAVE ME WAS...  
UNBELIEVABLE! WHICH  
CONSIDERING WHAT I  
CAN DO AS SPAWN--  
IMAGINE WHAT THAT  
FELT LIKE!

I...  
DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
TO SAY.

IS IT  
POSSIBLE?  
I GUESS. AT THIS  
POINT NOTHING  
WOULD SURPRISE ME.  
BUT IF YOU'RE ASKING  
IF I KNEW OF ANY  
'RESURRECTIONS'?  
THE ANSWER'S  
NO.

BUT GIVEN WHAT  
I'VE SEEN YOUR POWER  
DO ON TV-- YOU SOMEHOW  
BEING 'TOUCHED BY GOD'  
WOULDN'T COME AS A  
GREAT SHOCK. THE MEDIA'S  
ALREADY CALLING  
YOU A MESSIAH.

SO-- YOU  
TELL ME YOU  
THINK YOU'VE BEEN  
TO HEAVEN-- THAT  
SOUNDS A WHOLE  
LOT BETTER THAN  
THE HELL I WAS  
LIVING HERE ON  
EARTH!

I WASN'T  
TOLD I WAS  
WANTED THERE...  
THEY SAID I TRIED  
TO KILL GOD!

WHAT  
THE HELL  
DOES THAT  
MEAN?

AND EVEN  
MORE  
BIZARRE-- AS  
FAR AS I KNOW  
I'M NOT EVEN  
RELIGIOUS.

JIM...  
I WISH I  
COULD HELP  
YOU WITH  
THAT. I  
CAN'T.

BUT WE  
BOTH CAME LOOKING  
FOR ANSWERS TO OUR  
PAST. I'M HOPING WE  
FIND IT HERE. TONIGHT.  
SO WHY DON'T WE SPLIT  
UP AND SEE WHAT  
WE CAN FIND.

I'LL MEET  
YOU ON THE  
TOP FLOOR OF  
THAT BUNKER  
IN TWENTY  
MINUTES.

SURE.  
SOUNDS  
GOOD.





...I  
KNOW  
IT.



# Chapter Two: The CONSPIRACY





WYNN!

I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE MEETING  
ME IN THE  
OBSERVATORY?

I WAS...  
I'M JUST DOING  
MY PART. ACTING  
LIKE I'M AN  
INTRUDER.

THEN YOU'RE  
DOING A CONVINCING  
JOB. BECAUSE TO ME IT  
LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE  
SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING.  
I ADMIRE THE DEPTH  
YOU'VE TAKEN IN YOUR  
NEW ROLE.



I'M SURE IT'S  
BEEN VERY HARD ON YOU--  
BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN  
AWARE HOW MUCH WE REGARD  
LOYALTY. YOURS, SO FAR, HAS  
BEEN IMPECCABLE, DESPITE  
THE RATHER COMPLICATED  
SITUATIONS YOU'VE BEEN  
INVOLVED IN.



I UNDERSTAND  
MY LIFE! I DON'T  
NEED ONE OF YOUR  
LECTURES.



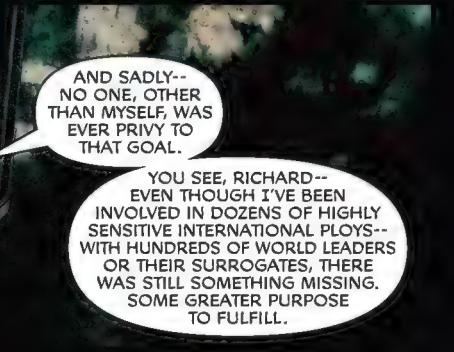
YOU'RE  
QUITE RIGHT.  
FOR BOTH OF US  
IT'S FAR TOO  
LATE FOR THAT,  
ISN'T IT?



BUT WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT-- YOU'VE DONE US **BOTH** A FAVOR WITH YOUR ACTIONS. YOU'RE GETTING THE NECESSARY ANSWERS YOU REQUIRE. WHILE I'M FINALLY IN A POSITION TO ACCOMPLISH MY ONE **TRUE GOAL**.



AND SADLY-- NO ONE, OTHER THAN MYSELF, WAS EVER PRIVY TO THAT GOAL.



YOU SEE, RICHARD-- EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN DOZENS OF HIGHLY SENSITIVE INTERNATIONAL PLOYS-- WITH HUNDREDS OF WORLD LEADERS OR THEIR SURROGATES, THERE WAS STILL SOMETHING MISSING. SOME GREATER PURPOSE TO FULFILL.



AND THOUGH THIS MAY SOUND SHALLOW TO YOU-- THE CONSTANT STRUGGLE TO HOLD AND MAINTAIN POWER CAN BE EXHAUSTING. RARELY IS THERE A MOMENT TO ENJOY YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS BECAUSE THE SCOPE AND REACH OF THAT POWER ONLY FORCES OTHERS ON THE GLOBE TO TRY AND TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU.



THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN STRUGGLES. TRYING TO ACCEPT LIVING AS THE CREATURE CALLED 'TREMOR,' THEN FINDING LATER THERE MAY BE ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE. BUT TO GET THERE YOU MIGHT HAVE TO SACRIFICE YOUR POWER KNOWING IT CAN BE USED AS A FORCE OF GOOD.



SO WHICH PATH DO YOU CHOOSE? WE BOTH KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER.



IT'S THE PATH THAT BRINGS INNER PEACE.





PREDICTABLE!



THAT'S IT! DIRECT YOUR ANGER AT ME!



FOCUS ON ME.



SPAWN!  
IT'S NOT  
WHAT IT  
LOOKS LIKE!  
I CAN  
EXPLAIN!



EXPLAIN  
WHAT? THAT  
YOU'VE  
BETRAYED  
ME!!



YOU'LL SHUT  
YOUR MOUTH  
IF YOU KNOW  
WHAT'S GOOD  
FOR YOU!

KRAK



THEN SELFISHLY...  
I WAS HOPING TO  
GET MY ANSWERS TOO!  
BECAUSE SO FAR I  
HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO  
THAT ANY BETTER THAN  
YOU-- AND THIS WAS THE  
ONLY WAY I COULD THINK  
OF TO FINALLY  
GET THEM.

LIAR!

WHY? WHY  
WOULD I LIE TO  
YOU? MY POWERS  
ARE GONE-- YOU  
TOOK THOSE.

SO IF YOU  
WANT TO HURT ME...  
THERE'S NOT A DAMN  
THING I CAN DO TO STOP IT!  
BUT I'M TELLING YOU, SPAWN-  
WYNNE HAS INFORMATION  
YOU WANT. AT LEAST GET  
THAT BEFORE YOU SNUFF  
HIM OUT.

THUMP

NOW WHY  
DON'T WE  
CUT RIGHT  
TO THE  
CHASE.

koff  
koff  
THANKS,  
RICHARD...  
I OWE YOU  
ONE.



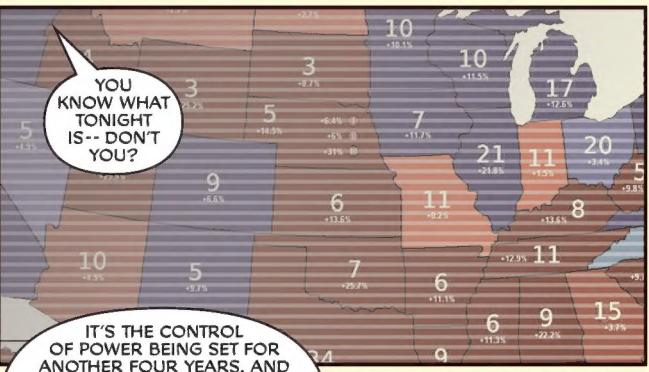
EVERYTHING YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR WAS PUT IN MOTION BY YOU. IT'S ALL A BYPRODUCT OF ORDERS YOU GAVE YEARS AGO. SO YOU GO AHEAD AND CALL YOURSELF WHATEVER YOU WANT. KRAMER. DOWNING. SPAWN. MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT, TOGETHER, YOU AND I WERE ABLE TO MANIPULATE CERTAIN FACTIONS OF POLITICAL POWERS ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE, SO THAT WHEN THE PROPER TIME CAME WE WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT PIECES IN THE RIGHT PLACES.



HERE... LET ME SHOW YOU.

YOU KNOW WHAT TONIGHT IS-- DON'T YOU?



IT'S THE CONTROL OF POWER BEING SET FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS. AND THOUGH MOST AMERICANS JUST RECENTLY MADE UP THEIR MINDS-- PEOPLE LIKE US HAVE BEEN WORKING THE BACK ROOMS FOR DECADES! MAKING SURE THAT WE WOULD GET THE RESULTS WE WANTED.



I DON'T CARE WHO ELSE YOU'VE CONNED ALONG THE WAY. THIS IS ABOUT YOU AND I. NOT ANYONE ELSE!



THAT'S NOT HOW THIS WORKS-- AND YOU KNOW IT! SINCE MOST OF THE MISSION'S MODEL WAS BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS BY YOU.



YOU WERE SO EAGER TO BRING THOSE HIGH RANKING CONNECTIONS OF YOURS ON BOARD-- BECAUSE YOU KNEW THEY WANTED THE SAME THINGS YOU DID.

MONEY.  
POWER.  
FAME.



I REMEMBER HOW YOU USED TO LAUGH BEHIND THEIR BACKS-- AT HOW EASILY THEY TRADED THEIR INTEGRITY FOR A CHANCE TO BE CLOSE TO THE ACTION. AND TONIGHT... THE CULMINATION OF ALL THAT PLANNING FINALLY BEARS FRUIT.



SO, YOU WANT TO STAND THERE AND TELL ME YOU'RE ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT YOURSELF. THAT'S FINE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE REALITY IS OUR FINAL PIECE HAS JUST BEEN PUT IN PLACE AND THE OBAMA CAMP WAS ALWAYS MORE THAN WILLING TO JOIN US.

**Next:**  
**AMERICA TURNS BLUE**





EMPIRE